

Twenty years ago, on September 21, President Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, establishing the Corporation for National and Community Services and its three main programs: AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America.

In Illinois and across the Nation, volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are stepping up to help others. More than 800,000 people have served as AmeriCorps members since 1994, and more than 1 billion hours have been invested in improving lives and strengthening communities. In Illinois, 30,000 Illinois residents have served 37 million hours through AmeriCorps, qualifying for Segal AmeriCorps Education awards of \$93 million.

This year, more than 3,600 Illinoisans joined AmeriCorps to engage in results-driven service that meet education, environmental, health, economic, and other pressing needs in communities across our State. Young men and women in AmeriCorps accept challenging assignments in tough towns and neighborhoods.

When the town of Joplin, MO, was devastated by a tornado in 2011, AmeriCorps members from Belleville, IL, helped with the recovery effort and with rebuilding the community. When low-income families are cash-strapped and hungry during the holidays, members of AmeriCorps prepare festive and nutritious meals at a community center in their neighborhood. Some volunteers have collected used children's books for underserved preschool programs in southern Illinois communities. AmeriCorps members have provided tutors and mentors to strengthen literacy programs in approximately 30 local grade schools.

These are a few examples of the service we see from AmeriCorps members. For their hard work, we pay them a few cents more than minimum wage and give them an educational grant to help fund their college expense.

In 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act to expand AmeriCorps and volunteer opportunities in six key areas: disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families. I was honored to join my colleagues in support of this legislation and President Obama's national call to service.

These volunteer hours and this commitment can make a tremendous difference in giving people some hope and in giving them the basics that they need to survive. That volunteer spirit is part of America. It is an American value we cherish.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work of these volunteers as the AmeriCorps celebrates its 20th anniversary.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT

FOREST PRODUCTS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to speak today and offer some clarity about the treatment of wood products in the amendment that Senator WICKER and Senator LANDRIEU have offered with regard to green building standards. I commend Senator WICKER for his hard work on this amendment, which will update the current EISA statute to reflect the evolution of green building rating systems and create a more strategic approach for the Federal Government so that we have the highest performing, most efficient, and most cost-effective buildings while also taking advantage of an abundant domestic resource.

Mr. WICKER. The amendment I have introduced with Senator LANDRIEU addresses a number of issues that are important to America's forest products industry. In particular, the amendment specifies that the Department of Energy and the General Services Administration must allow the use of multiple green building rating systems. A voluntary standard endorsed by the Federal Government can wield immense influence over green building specifications in the Federal sector and broader commercial marketplace. DOE and GSA must support competition and allow the free market to produce the best energy-efficient buildings at the lowest costs.

The intention of section 406(3)(G) of our amendment is to direct GSA and DOE to adopt a policy that provides equitable treatment to all domestic sources of sustainable wood. It is simply unacceptable for the Federal Government to endorse a standard that discriminates against domestically sourced, sustainable U.S. wood.

Wood is an ideal green building material because it is renewable, stores carbon, and is energy efficient. According to objective criteria, the majority of the domestic wood products industry is sustainably managed and endorsed internationally. In addition, the forest products industry employs nearly 1 million men and women in well-paying jobs, including more than 123,000 in my home State of Mississippi. There is no reason to shut out the wood products being produced in our own backyard in favor of imported substitutes. Our intention is to provide an equal playing field that keeps Mississippi wood—as well as wood from other states—a vital component of federal green building policy.

Mr. PORTMAN. I agree with the Senator. We have a lot of hard-working Americans who are employed by this industry, and we need to ensure that there is a level playing field for them so that the Federal Government's green building policy doesn't stand in the way of bringing sustainably produced domestic wood to market. I would also emphasize that wood is a vital component of sound architectural

design and construction, in addition to being a renewable resource that sequesters huge amounts of carbon. This amendment strengthens our bill by making clear that green building programs avoid discriminatory or arbitrary provisions and ensuring that they consider environmental impacts across the entire life cycle of a building material or product by incorporating Life Cycle Assessment.

Mr. WICKER. I thank the Senator. We believe this amendment is a step forward to ensure GSA and DOE's green building policies support domestically sourced wood. I look forward to working with the Senator and committee leadership as this legislation moves forward.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3102. An act to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008; and for other purposes.

H. J. Res. 59. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

At 2:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1526. An act to restore employment and educational opportunities in, and improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from National Forest System land, to provide a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1526. An act to restore employment and educational opportunities in, and improve the economic stability of, counties

containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from National Forest System land, to provide a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.J. Res. 59. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3079. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the Washington State Implementation Plan; Approval of Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets and Determination of Attainment for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Standard; Tacoma-Pierce County Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9901-02-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3080. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado Second Ten-Year PM10 Maintenance Plan for Aspen" (FRL No. 9901-06-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3081. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Removal of Stage II Gasoline Vapor Recovery Program" (FRL No. 9901-10-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3082. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; California; Morongo Band of Mission Indians" (FRL No. 9901-13-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3083. A communication from the Management Analyst, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Environmental Policy Act: Categorical Exclusions for Soil and Water Restoration Activities" (RIN0596-AD01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3084. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3363-EM in the State of Texas having exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3085. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to expanding the assignment of female Field Artillery Officers (Military Occupational Specialty 13A) into all remaining closed units, outside of those within the U.S. Special Operations Command; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3086. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Animal Welfare; Retail Pet Stores and Licensing Exemptions" ((RIN0579-AD57) (Docket No. APHIS-2011-0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3087. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Legal Office, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Records of Failed Insured Depository Institutions" (RIN3064-AD99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3088. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Legal Office, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Implementation of Basel III, Capital Adequacy, Transition Provisions, Prompt Corrective Action, Standardized Approach for Risk-weighted Assets, Market Discipline and Disclosure Requirements, Advanced Approaches Risk-Based Capital Rule, and Market Risk Capital Rule" (RIN3064-AD95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3089. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2013-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3090. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2013-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3091. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Stress Testing of Regulated Entities" (RIN2590-AA47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3092. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957; to the

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3093. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical, Physical Readiness, Training, and Access Authorization Standards for Protective Force Personnel" (RIN1992-AA40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3094. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Human Reliability Program: Technical Amendments" (RIN1992-AA44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3095. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mixed Straddles; Straddle-by-Straddle Identification Under Section 1092(b)(2)(A)(i)(I)" (RIN1545-BL04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3096. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Application of Section 179(f) for Qualified Real Property" (Notice 2013-59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3097. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates" (Notice 2013-58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3098. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance Regarding Deduction and Capitalization of Expenditures Related to Tangible Property" (RIN1545-BE18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3099. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Conforming Changes to Regulations Regarding Medicare Determinations and Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts to Medicare Part B Premiums" (RIN0960-AH47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3100. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicaid Program; State Disproportionate Share Hospital Allotment Reductions" (RIN0938-AR31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3101. A communication from the Program Manager, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to